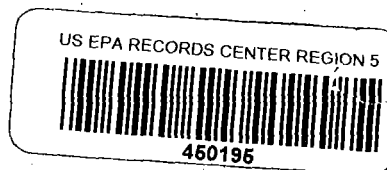




**COLORMETRIC
LABORATORIES, INC.**

Safety Products That Detect and Protect



May 4, 2001

Dear Congressman Weller:

We met briefly at a fund raising event about three years ago. I own a small laboratory that deals primarily with OSHA related workplace chemical safety issues. I am forwarding this letter to you via Ms. Joan De Muth to express my concerns over the politicization of OSHA and the EPA during the last eight years.

The Republican Party was correct in remanding OSHA's ergonomic standard. It was more of a political payoff to the unions than an effort to improve worker safety. However, my greater concern is the political agenda expressed by the EPA on environmental issues. Trivializing the importance of good environmental policy by demagoguing an issue such as arsenic in water is politics at its worst. Your effort to create the Joliet Arsenal wildlife Preserve convinces me that you understand this.

The EPA enjoys a high level of goodwill and trust among the general public; sadly this trust is largely undeserved and that fact must be made known if the EPA's agenda is to be challenged.

You may recall the major news story of last year that NICOR had contaminated hundreds of Chicago area homes with mercury when they removed old gas meters. Typically, this caused major over-reaction to the problem by stressing the possibility of danger to the public's children.

My company manufactures end-of-service-life indicators for respirators that are worn by technicians when cleaning up spilled mercury. Therefore, I was aware of the true extent of the problem.

All gas meters manufactured prior to the mid-1970's contain mercury as a pressure regulator. When these meters are replaced with newer models, mercury spills may occur. Thus, homes contaminated with significant levels of mercury are not limited to the Chicago area. Mercury contamination is a potential problem in any home built before 1975. Not surprising, the cost to clean-up contaminated homes nationwide was initially estimated at \$100 + million.

Quietly, the mercury issue has disappeared and the EPA and the media are now focused on arsenic. I am privy to some insight that is not widely known on the mercury issue. The Attorney General of the State of Illinois worked with the Federal EPA to address the mercury spills in the Chicago area. The EPA notified all natural gas providers in the United States of the potential for spill problems and then decided to drop the issue. In order to do that legally, the Federal EPA has re-written their mercury regulations to exempt mercury spills in private homes and has increased allowable mercury levels in homes by 3 to 5 fold.

The real question is: Why would the EPA rewrite their standards to allow children to be exposed to mercury in their homes at levels 3 to 5 times greater than what was previously considered safer? Here I rely on educated speculation. Mercury spills nationwide are not a new problem; just an old problem recently brought to the public's attention.

Page 2

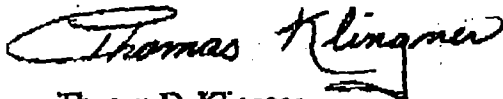
The amount of mercury that may be spilled when removing an old gas meter can take 30 years or longer to fully disperse. It is probable that many families have lived with mercury contamination in their basements for many years. Why aren't the children sick? Explaining that phenomenon is a problem for the EPA.

If you check the records, you will find that the EPA's final regulation under Clinton was for lower mercury emissions levels from coal fired power plants. If the children are not sick from mercury in their basements, how can the EPA justify even stricter mercury regulation for industry?

I suggest that with some cooperation from others, members of your staff can confirm this information. The public deserves to know if the EPA is protecting the people or its own political agenda. Exposing the truth will encourage the public to address environmental issues on a sound scientific basis rather than misinformation and emotion.

I place myself at your disposal should you find this an important issue to pursue.

Sincere regards,



Thomas D. Klingner
President